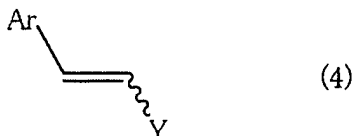


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (**Currently Amended**) A process for producing an aromatic unsaturated compound of the formula (4)



wherein Ar represents an optionally substituted aromatic group or an optionally substituted heteroaromatic group, and Y represents an ~~electron-withdrawing group~~ alkoxycarbonyl group, aryloxy carbonyl group, aralkyloxy carbonyl group or cyano group, which comprises reacting

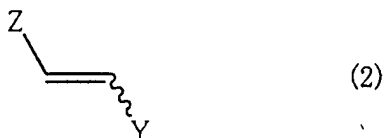
(a) a compound of the formula (1)



wherein Ar has the same meaning as defined above

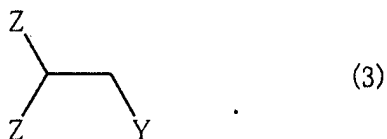
with

(b) a compound of the formula (2)



wherein Y has the same meaning as defined above, and Z represents a lower alkoxy, or

a compound of the formula (3)



wherein Y and Z have the same meanings as defined above,

in the presence of

(c) an acid or a compound which generates a mineral acid by its hydrolysis, and

wherein (c) an acid or a compound which generates a mineral acid by its hydrolysis is phosphorus oxyhalide, phosphorus halide, thionyl halide or sulfuryl halide.

2. (Original) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the reaction is conducted in the co-presence of water.

3.- 4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the reaction is conducted in acetic acid.

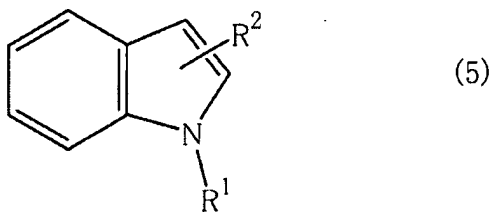
6. (Original) The process according to Claim 1, wherein Ar in the formulae (1) and (4) is an aromatic group or a heteroaromatic group which may be substituted by at least one group selected from the group consisting of a lower alkyl, a lower alkoxyl, a hydroxyl, -OR^x, an amino, -NHR^y, -NR^y₂, halogen and a phenyl optionally substituted by halogen(s).

wherein R^x represents a protective group of hydroxyl and R^y represents a protective group of amino.

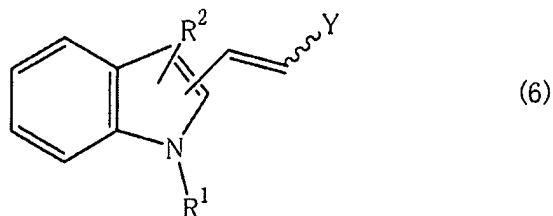
7. (Original) The process according to Claim 1, wherein Ar in the formulae (1) and (4) is an optionally substituted phenyl.

8. (Original) The process according to Claim 1, wherein Ar in the formulae (1) and (4) is an optionally substituted indolyl.

9. (Original) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the compound of the formula (1) is a compound of the formula (5)



wherein R^1 represents a phenyl optionally substituted by halogen(s), a hydrogen or an alkyl and R^2 represents an alkyl or a phenyl optionally substituted by halogen(s), and the compound of the formula (4) is a compound of the formula (6)



wherein R^1 and R^2 have the same meanings as defined above.

10. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein R is an alkoxy carbonyl group having 2 to 9 carbon atoms.

11. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein R is a methoxycarbonyl group.
12. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein R is an aryloxycarbonyl group having 7 to 13 carbon atoms.
13. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein R is an aryloxycarbonyl group having 8 to 14 carbon atoms.